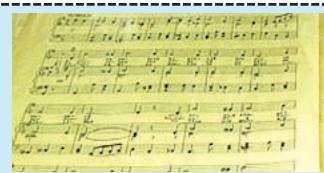




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www.themorningnewsaruba.com • themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com Wednesday, March 16, 2011

THE MORNING NEWS

Your Source for local news in English Caya G.F. Betico Croes 111 T. 588-9517 F. 5889518.

Minister instrumental in deflating hospital and union crisis

After much debating, deliberating, discussing and negotiating, late Monday afternoon Minister of Public Health, Dr. Richard Visser was instrumental in deflating the crisis between the management of the Hospital and the ABV Union. Both parties were able to, as we say in Aruba, "add water to the wine," (concede amicably with some give and take) while the government footed the bill for the additional funds to cover the hospital's deficit in order to satisfy the demands of the new CAO (collective working agreement).

Contrary to the request that the CAO be valid for a period of 18 months, it was agreed that the duration of the CAO would span instead only 12

months - January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011.

Ever since the recently held Social Dialogue, the parties agreed that every effort would be made to drastically reduce the overall expenses of health care so as to be better able to manage the AZV (general national sickness insurance) program without having to revert back to the government for the constant injection of funds to keep the program solvent.

The austerity measure should be no surprise in view of the example of the personal cut back of benefits that the Parliamentarians decided to implement for themselves some months ago. In addition, the government has been doing everything possible to cut back

on expenses on personnel in view of the current economic situation of Aruba.

Aruba's economic situation is similar to that of the rest of the world, where everyone is experiencing the effects of the world economic downturn.

It was revealed that the expenses of the Hospital are the bulk of the expenses of the AZV program and it was agreed that these expenses will be revised. For the first time this year, the Hospital and AZV have been able to present a preliminary budget. The government has been pressuring all parties to comply with their responsibility and not to allow everything to rest in the hands of AZV at the end, who in turn will have to resort to the government for help to "bail" them out.

AZV has agreed that the Hospital may increase their tariffs by 1.5% in their 2011 budget. Ironically, this increase will now be immediately absorbed by the salary increase of their personnel. However, this amount is less than the union demand of 1.2 million florins more; where as, the Board of Directors of the Hospital had budgeted 700 thousand Aruban florins.

The Minister learned of the ill feelings of the Hospital personnel who complained about the poor treatment they receive from Hospital management. Employees are of the opinion that there is the absence of real customer service which they allude translates into less than optimum quality service to patients. In the light of this complaint, the government urged the Board of Directors and the Supervisory Board to attend to this situation and resolve the problems that exist with their employees. Obviously, the Minister has neither direct say nor influence in the daily operations of the Hospital.

In order to curtail the stalemate and to put a stop to the employee work slow down so

that Hospital patients will not be affected, the Minister decided to join the meeting between the Hospital Supervisory Board, the Government Mediator and the ABV Union to come up with a practical and rapid solution. The minister succeeded in convincing the union that Aruba is currently in a state of austerity and that everyone is expected to adjust to the situation. They were able to reduce the deficit between what the union wanted and the 320 thousand Aruban florins budgeted for 2011.

The Minister opted to juggle his own ministerial budget



to come up with the funds for the Hospital to cover the deficit for their employees.

Continued on page 2

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

Blasts, fire escalate Japan's nuclear crisis



A person believed to be contaminated is carried into a radiation treatment centre in Nihonmatsu city in Fukushima prefecture.

SENDAI, Japan (AFP) – Explosions and a fire at Japan's quake-hit nuclear plant unleashed dangerous levels of radiation, sparking a collapse on the stock market and panic buying in supermarkets.

Tokyo stocks, punished in a frantic sell-off that sent indexes around the world sliding, plummeted another 14 percent before paring some losses and ending 10.55 percent down. European and US stocks also fell sharply.

In towns and cities, fearful citizens stripped shelves of food and water, prompting the government to warn that panic buying could hurt its ability to provide aid to areas devastated by Friday's massive quake and tsunami.

But scared Tokyo residents filled outbound trains and rushed to shops to stock up on face masks and emergency supplies amid heightening fears of radiation headed their way.

Radiation levels around the Fukushima No.1 plant on the eastern coast had "risen considerably", Prime Minister Naoto Kan said, and his chief spokesman announced it had reached the point where it endangered human health.

In Tokyo, 250 kilometres (155 miles) to the southwest, authorities also said that higher-than-normal but not harmful radiation levels had been detected in the capital, the world's biggest urban area.

Kan warned people living up to 10 kilometres beyond a 20-kilometre exclusion zone around the nuclear plant to stay indoors.

"I would like to ask the nation, although this incident is of great concern, I ask you to react very calmly," he said.

The fire broke out in the plant's number-four reactor, meaning that four of the facility's six reactors were in trouble -- and temperatures were reportedly rising in the other two. The Pentagon said it provided two fire trucks but no US troops were involved, clarifying earlier remarks by plant operator TEPCO.

The UN weather agency said that winds were currently blowing radioactive material towards the ocean, and that there were "no implications" for Japan or nearby countries. France's Nuclear Safety Authority said the disaster now

equated to a six on the seven-point international scale for nuclear accidents, ranking the crisis second only in gravity to Chernobyl.

Japan however maintained its assessment of the disaster at a four, placing it behind the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in the United States.

The UN's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Tokyo had asked for expert assistance in the aftermath of the quake, which US seismologists are now measuring at magnitude 9.0, revised up from 8.9.

Singapore's DBS Bank estimated that the twin disasters would cost Japan's economy about \$100 billion, or about two percentage points of its annual gross domestic product.

Minister instrumental in deflating hospital....

Continued from page 1

It was accorded that employees will receive retroactively to January 2011 the amount of 50 Aruban florins on their salaries and as of July 2011 they will receive 105 Aruban florins through to December 2011 for the duration of the one year CAO.

The minister emphasized that this increase must ensure that the employees will commit themselves to the best possible care of patients and the very best service and quality in our hospital. Daily the Aruban community is pressuring the government to demand that the hospital provide better care

and service, while the government in essence does not have any direct influence on the management of the hospital.

With the agreement reached, the ABV Union assured the Minister that on Tuesday morning all employees will have been notified and that they will terminate the work slow down and return to work as usual. The government will arrange to have the deficit funds transferred to the Hospital within two days. Minister Visser expressed appreciation for both parties for their understanding and commitment.

Million young expected at Madrid Catholic rally

VATICAN CITY, The Vatican (AFP) - More than a million young people are expected to attend the Roman Catholic Church's World Youth Day (WYD) celebrations in Spain in August, a senior church official said.

About 300,000 pilgrims had enrolled for the event, of these 50,000 were Spanish and about the same number French and Italian. More than 17,000 of the faithful were expected to come from the United States and 10,000 from Poland.

Pope Benedict XVI will attend from August 18 to 21, making the third visit of his papacy to Spain. He will meet King Juan Carlos, Prime Minister Jose Luis Zapatero, opposition leader Mariano Rajoy and the Madrid authorities.

Because of Spain's delicate economic situation, the budget for the event, the 26th in the series, will be 20 percent lower than for the last WYD, in Sydney in July 2008.

The WYD, instituted by Pope John Paul II in 1986, was held in 1989 in the northwestern Spanish city of Santiago de Compostela.

Religion is on the retreat in Spain, which under the regime of dictator Francisco Franco was a Roman Catholic stronghold. While in 2002 80 percent of Spaniards identified themselves as Catholics the figure is now 73 percent.

Spanish society has become more liberal since 2005 with legislation making divorce easier, legalising homosexual marriage (20,000 unions have been celebrated since 2005) and making abortion more available.

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Fort Valley State University interested in Aruba



On Monday morning, Ministers Oduber and Dowers met with a group of representatives of the Fort Valley State University at the Aruba Governor's Office. The Georgia state university has been visiting various countries each year as part of their student professional development program. Their objective is to introduce students to the various cultures, customs, political life, as well as the socio-cultural aspects of the country as part of the student's personal and professional development.

Associate Professor of Political Science and Executive Director of the Academic Success Center, Dr. Said Sewell, Ph.D. was the leader of the 7 student group who were here for a one week visit to our island.

During their meeting with Aruba's Governor and the two ministers, Professor Sewell shared that Fort Valley State University is known as a his-

torically black university known for their success in leading students to assume positions of leadership in the society.

The trip to Aruba, he explained, is part of that process of transitioning students to becoming true professionals.

The Professor also indicated that they will be visiting the University of Aruba to explore the possibility for a student exchange between the two centers of learning. The meeting was a friendly one in which the Governor shared some of his personal experiences with the group. The ministers of Aruba also expressed interest in exploring the possibility of some future endeavor with the Fort Valley State University.

After their visit with the Governor they visited the Aruba Parliament where they received extensive information on the important roll of Parliament in our society.



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com

How to Create Your Own Mission Statement Part I

If you're like me, I'm always looking out for mission statements. Often when I enter a company's front door I look around to see if they have a mission statement somewhere posted on the wall where everyone can see it. And, sure enough, I see many on company walls! But, you know, what usually grabs me is that many of them say a lot of things, but in essence tell me nothing. I am not able to decipher what it is they really want to convey in their statement. In other words, their mission statement is too vague, or too wordy, or too expanded, or too nothing!

So many companies seem to miss the point with their mission statement! Then again there are others who want to make certain that they don't miss anything, and they include much too much and their statement becomes too bulky and complex.

I remember working with a small company in Curacao helping them create a mission statement. It was a rather pleasant exercise, but one that involved many days of brainstorming and hard work. But, when we finally came up with the statement it was very clear what the company wanted and what they wanted to reflect through the statement. Everybody could see almost at a glance in which direction they were going and what their primary objectives were.

You know, interestingly, we shouldn't limit mission statements to companies or businesses; they should be designed for personal life as well. The same way we want our businesses to thrive, we should also desire our personal lives to thrive. So, creating a mission statement for your life is a very necessary exercise that could make a major difference in how you run your life! I had to learn this for myself one day...and once I did, it changed my perspective!

In these articles, today is part I, I want to invite you to explore the matter of creating a mission statement with me. I want to outline what I believe to be the 4 most important steps we need to take to create a good mission statement either for a company (if you run a company) or for your personal life.

I know ...I can almost hear

you saying it out loud: You need a management 'guru' to help you create a mission statement! Well, I know companies today do pay lots of money to some so-called management specialist to come in and create a mission statement for them. I have no problem with that. There is absolutely nothing wrong with that. Like I intimated above...I've done that for companies too. But, why pay great sums of money for something you can do yourself. Would you pay a 'guru' to help you design your personal life mission statement...most probably not.

Lest I mislead you, let me hasten to tell you that I am no guru, I am no management specialist! I am a trained psychologist. And, after leading Aruba's state-of-the-art Hotel training college for 27 years I know a thing or two about management and organizations! And, I have participated in several mission statement creation sessions and have personally led a few. In addition, my research on the subject has provided me a wealth of knowledge and understanding on the subject. Well, let me share with you the first of the four steps you need to take to create a good mission statement:

Step Number One: What Do We DO?

The first step is answering this basic question. You must be clear about your personal or organizational mission. Answering this question will give you the right focus as to what work is inside and outside of your particular area or scope that will keep you on track. You need to be crystal clear as to what exactly you do as a company, or as a person!

Once you can answer this question clearly and concisely, you can move on to the second step. Let me answer the question with an example of what I mean:

Buchi-Juan Dakota Center is dedicated to offering food and temporary shelter to homeless, unemployed teenage mothers of Dakota until they are able to find work and be self sufficient. That is what they do!

A good mission statement doesn't have to be long or boring. It must be a vibrant statement that gives you direction and is explicit enough for any third party to understand at a

glance!

Before we go to step two, let me emphasize here that any good mission statement must involve all personnel and staff in the brainstorming, planning and creation stage of the statement. If you don't involve everyone, what you get is the manager's statement, not the company's mission statement...and there's a big difference in the two. If you want total support for your service or product, a unified image to the public (your customers), efficiency and effectivity in your operation, you will include everyone in the mission statement creation exercise!

Step Number Two: For Whom Do We Do What We Do?

In my example, the organization serves unemployed teenage mothers of Dakota! Notice, they are clear about the service they provide and about the reach of their service - the Dakota area, not all of Aruba! Then, there is a direct customer -teenage moms, and the indirect beneficiary - the community. As these teenage moms find work and re-enter the community, the community becomes the indirect beneficiary of the organization's work.

Next Morning News issue I will outline the other two questions you need to ask as you set out to create your mission statement. In closing, let me encourage you to develop a personal mission statement for your life. It could make all the difference in your success as an individual. Ask yourself, What Do I Do? What is the primary occupation in my life, what gets me out of bed every morning, what do I spend my day doing everyday? Write out the answer to this question. Then, ask yourself a second question: For whom am I doing what I'm doing? I hope you don't reply with....for my boss! No, you must be doing what you're doing for more reasons than just for your boss. Answer this question clearly, honestly and concisely. Then wait for next edition for the other two questions as you pursue a life's mission which would change your entire perspective and give you new meaning to your life from now on.

If this was helpful, please let me know by writing to: themorningnewsaruba@gmail.com

Thanks.

★ FERIA DUSHI TERA

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Sea turtle season has started

Last Thursday the first Leatherback nest was found by Turtugaruba (the local Foundation for the protection of the sea turtles) in front of Bucuti Beach Resort/Manchebo. A red-and-white barrier was placed around the nest to prevent irresponsible drivers from crushing the eggs and to guarantee a safe incubation period of two months.

The Leatherback Sea Turtles nesting on Aruba don't live in the Caribbean, but in the Northern part of the Atlantic Ocean, off the coast of Nova

Scotia, Canada.

But they are born on Aruba's beaches. After 20 – 30 years they reach maturity and then return to their natal beach in order to nest during the turtle nesting season (March – July). Normally one female makes about 7 nests per season. After laying her last nest she returns to the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. She will not come back to Aruba the next year, but will skip one or two years.

All species of sea turtles are endangered and need our protection. What you can do to

protect sea turtles:

- Lights out for sea turtles. Nighttime activities and artificial lighting may deter adult females from nesting. So PLEASE keep all lights off, including flashlights, flash photography and video equipment. "Sea turtles dig the dark"

- Do not drive on beaches. Not all of the turtle nests on all the beaches around Aruba are marked. Vehicles (4x4, quads) compact the sand and can crush the eggs.

- Do not litter. Do not leave any plastic cups or bags on the

beach. The wind will blow it into the sea. A floating plastic bag is easily mistaken for a jellyfish, the Leatherback Sea Turtle's favorite food.

- Remove obstacles from the beach. Obstacles as beach furniture or recreational equipment may cause nesting females to abort their nesting attempt or may even trap them. So don't leave any beach chairs at night unattended close to the sea, but make a stack as far as possible away from the water.

- Do not disturb a nesting

sea turtle. Do not attempt to touch the turtle but stay at a respectful distance (at least 10 meters). Do allow the turtle to complete the full nesting process (about two hours) and don't be in her way when she returns to the sea.

- Do call Turtugaruba (24 hour Turtle Hotline: 5929393). If, during a late evening or early morning stroll on the beach you witness a sea turtle, or if you see turtle crawl marks, please call Turtugaruba or notify the frontdesk of your hotel. Thanks!

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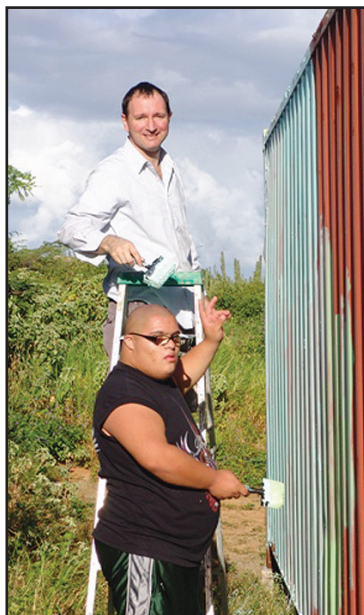


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“Divi IMPACT Foundation paints containers for the Donkeys”



On February 19th the members together with volunteers from the Divi IMPACT Foundation went to a location on the island to paint a 20 foot container for the Donkey Sanctuary.

There are 3 containers and are currently placed in three different locations around the island and in order to prevent any further corroding of the containers these had to be painted urgently.

The members of the Divi IMPACT approached the Donkey sanctuary and agreed to paint all 3 containers.

The first paint job was done on February 19th where the members finished one container.

The second paint job was done on March 10th where the members and volunteers of the Divi IMPACT Foundation finished the last two containers at the different locations.

The containers are to be placed all together at the Donkey Sanctuary where the reserve food for the Donkey Sanctuary will be placed.

The Divi IMPACT Foundation has been established since September of 2010 and was very happy to assist the Donkey Sanctuary in this project.

The Foundation has already adopted a Donkey called Bam Bam and is looking forward to collaborating with this and other instances on the island in order to help improve and provide for the Aruban Community.



Sci-Tech

Microsoft releases new Internet Explorer 9 browser



Unlocking the native web

AUSTIN, Texas (AFP) – Microsoft has released the latest version of its Internet Explorer Web browsing software free online, hoping to fend off recent challenges by Firefox and Google Chrome.

"IE9 has just released around the world," a booming voice told a cheering crowd at 11:00 pm Monday (0400 GMT Tuesday) in the Austin City Limits Live concert hall where a launch party was being held.

Internet Explorer 9 (IE9) was available for download in 30 languages at beautyoftheweb.com.

"Things are about to change," Microsoft corporate vice president Dean Hachamovitch said just hours earlier at a press conference at the South By Southwest Interactive technology festival here.

"We took a dramatically different tack," he continued. "It's a really good day for the Web."

IE9 is built to make the most of Microsoft's latest operating system, Windows 7, as well as graphics processing chips that can power videos, games and graphics.

The long list of partners that have adapted websites to IE9 includes Facebook, Twitter, Pandora, Hulu, and Yahoo!, according to Microsoft.

"We have worked with partners reaching a billion active Internet users," Hachamovitch said. "All of these partners are using IE9 to make a more beautiful Web, starting today."

More than 40 million copies of IE9 have already been downloaded as part of the process leading up to its official release, according to Microsoft.

Microsoft showed off a lean, muscular new Internet Explorer crafted to spotlight slick websites and beat back competition from Firefox and Google.

Microsoft director of web

services strategy Ari Bixhorn booted up an Apple MacBook Pro laptop running the latest version of Firefox for a side-by-side comparison.

A laptop powered by Windows and using IE9 smoothly zipped through cascading images illustrating top tunes at a radio station website while the competition appeared to be much slower.

Once a website is reached, the IE9 browser seems to almost vanish to spotlight the content.

"The browser is the stage and the websites are the stars of the show," Hachamovitch

told AFP during an earlier demonstration.

The browser is included in Windows software, and the operating system remains at a core of Microsoft's software empire. The Redmond, Washington-based technology colossus claims more than one billion Windows customers.

IE9 promised to be another hit release for Microsoft, which has had market success with the Windows 7 operating system and the Kinect motion-sensing controller accessory for Xbox 360 video game consoles.

Germany shuts down seven reactors

BERLIN (AFP) – Germany announced Tuesday the temporary shutdown of the oldest seven of its 17 nuclear reactors pending a safety review in light of Japan's atomic emergency.

"We are launching a safety review of all nuclear reactors ... with all reactors in operation since the end of 1980 set to be idled for the period of the (three-month) moratorium," Chancellor Angela Merkel said.

This covers seven nuclear reactors in Germany, which decided a decade ago to be nuclear-free by 2020, a target postponed until the mid-2030s by Merkel's government late last year -- despite strong public opposition.

Japan's government has said radiation levels near the Fukushima nuclear plant have reached levels harmful to humans, advising thousands of people to stay indoors after two explosions and a fire at the facility Tuesday.

Four of the six reactors at the plant, 250 kilometres (155 miles) northeast of Tokyo, have now overheated and sparked explosions since Friday's massive earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems.

"After this moratorium, which will run until June 15... we will know how to proceed," Merkel said following

crisis talks in Berlin with premiers of German states where there are nuclear plants.

She said Berlin would also use the period to discuss what to do with radioactive waste -- no permanent storage site exists -- boosting renewable energies, and international safety standards for nuclear power.

"Safety standards in Germany are one thing, they are important, but safety standards in Europe, being able to compare them, and international safety standards are also important," Merkel said.

A survey by public broadcaster ARD published on Tuesday had 53 percent of respondents saying all reactors -- which produce a quarter of Germany's power -- should be taken out of service as soon as possible.

Seventy percent thought that an accident similar to

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HP looks to the 'cloud'

NEW YORK (AFP) – Hewlett-Packard plans to offer a complete range of cloud computing services, HP chief executive Leo Apotheker said Monday as he outlined his strategy for the US computer giant.

Apotheker, speaking in San Francisco at an event that was streamed over the Internet, also said that HP plans to release its touchscreen tablet computer, the TouchPad, in June.

He said HP hopes to eventually offer the WebOS operating system powering the TouchPad on 100 million devices a year -- from smartphones to computers.

HP bought Palm, the de-

veloper of WebOS, last year.

Apotheker, who took over as HP's CEO on November 1, said HP plans to make a major push into cloud services -- offering applications and storing data over the Internet.

"HP intends to build and run an HP cloud," he said. "We'll launch infrastructure as a service for our enterprise customers, and we will be launching a public cloud offering in the near future."

Online social game star Zynga adds new lure

AUSTIN, Texas (AFP) – The startup behind hit online social games Farmville, Zynga Poker, and Mafia Wars ramped up the pay-off for its more than 250 million players.

Zynga on Tuesday used a South By Southwest Interactive (SXSW) festival in Texas as a stage to unveil a new rewards program for its titles, which have won legions of followers at Facebook and elsewhere on the Internet.

Players who sign up online at website rewardville.com can shift winnings such as virtual goods, status or money between different games and use rewards to help out friends playing other Zynga games.

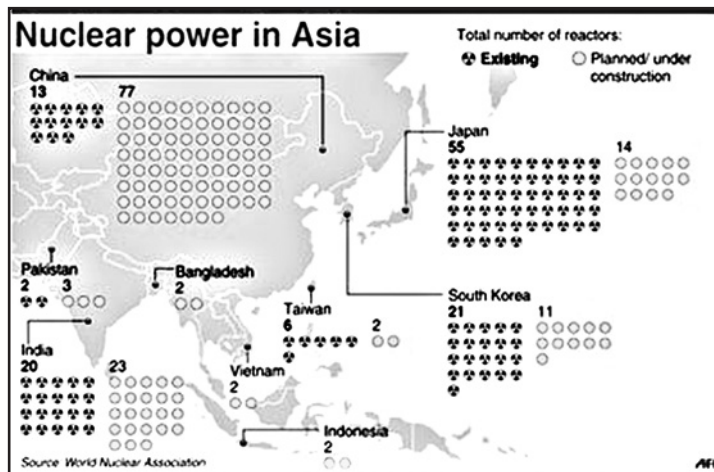
"With RewardVille, our aim is to delight players by rewarding them with new Zynga-level points and exclusive limited edition virtual items," said Zynga vice president Roy Sehgal.

Later this week, Zynga will host its first live poker tournament with players of the online game invited to test their mettle in Las Vegas.

Zynga was founded in July 2007 in San Francisco by Mark Pincus, who named the startup after his late American bulldog "Zynga."

Zynga boasts more than a quarter of a million players. Its titles include CityVille, FrontierVille, Café World, YoVille, and Vampire Wars.

The company is known for combining philanthropy and business, having raised more than \$5 million for charitable causes through game play.



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BRIEFS

Health experts sound warning over iodine rush:

HONG KONG (AFP) – Japan's nuclear crisis has sparked panic buying of iodine pills, with on-line bids exceeding \$500 for one packet, but health experts hosed down the hysteria and warned the pills are of limited use.

As fresh blasts rocked a stricken atomic plant on Japan's east coast, and crews worked frantically to cool reactors that emitted dangerous levels of radiation near the facility, jitters spread to Tokyo and beyond.

US-based firms selling potassium iodide, a preventative treatment for radiation sickness, completely ran out of stock and pharmacies across the country's Pacific-facing West Coast had a rush on the over-the-counter pills.

Potassium iodide is a salt used to saturate the thyroid gland to block the uptake of radioactive iodine, a highly carcinogenic substance that can leak from nuclear reactors in an accident.

=====

US ill-prepared for emergency radiation: study

WASHINGTON (AFP) – Most American states are not prepared to cope with a major nuclear radiation event, said a study published that happened to coincide with a feared nuclear disaster in quake-hit Japan.

The survey of state health departments was conducted in 2010 and found that almost half of the 38 states that took part had no plan for protecting public health in the event of a radiation emergency.

"Most states had completed little to no planning for public health surveillance to assess potential human health impacts of a radiation event," said the study in Disaster Medicine and Public Health Preparedness, a journal of the American Medical Association.

Few states said they had the resources to test the public for radiation exposure.

=====

Three-year-old is UK's 'youngest ever alcoholic':



LONDON (AFP) – A three-year-old child who was treated in hospital for addiction to alcohol is thought to be Britain's youngest ever alcoholic, health officials said.

The youngster was one of 13 people under the age of 12 who were diagnosed as alcoholics by the state-run National Health Service (NHS) in central England between 2008 and 2010.

Health officials declined to give details of the three-year-old's condition or disclose the toddler's identity due to patient confidentiality rules.

An NHS spokeswoman said: "We treat alcohol abuse very seriously, and have specialist teams and experts on hand who are there to treat young patients with alcohol-related problems."

The groups, including the British Medical Association and the charity Alcohol Concern, accused the health ministry of letting the drinks industry dictate policy and condemned the pledges as neither specific nor measurable.

=====

Health & Living

Health watchdog ready to aid Japan in nuclear alert

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) – The World Health Organization said it was ready to help Japan, which is grappling with a nuclear emergency after some reactors were damaged by last week's deadly earthquake.

"We have expressed our availability to participate in a mission, to offer necessary assistance, if it is required," said Maria Neira, the UN health agency's director of public health and environment.

"We are ready," she added.

Radiation near a quake-hit nuclear plant reached levels harmful to human health, Japan's government said after two explosions and a fire at the crippled facility.

Four of the six reactors at the Fukushima No. 1 plant, 250 kilometres (155 miles) north-east of Tokyo, have now overheated and sparked explosions since Friday's massive earthquake and tsunami knocked out cooling systems.

Neira assessed that Japanese authorities have acted appropri-



ately in imposing exclusion zones around the plant.

However, she warned: "The situation is evolving very quickly, the recommendations will have to be adapted with the situation as it evolves."

"For the time being, with the core information that is available with the prevailing situation, the type of radioactivity that is in the area, the measures of evacuating, the measures of requesting people to stay indoors, the measures to preposition and eventually dis-

tribute potassium iodide, those are the ones that the public health community is recommending," she said.

Neira also said that the WHO is not making any specific recommendation on diet at the moment, as "the produce that will be at risk will be the produce that are growing in the contaminated areas."

"Our understanding is that there are no problems at the moment (from what) they've collected from the area, because it's totally inundated."

Bad breath:

Bad breath odors vary depending on the source or the underlying cause of the bad breath. Because it's difficult to rate your own breath, many people worry excessively about their breath even though they have little or no mouth odor. Others have bad breath and don't know it. Because it's difficult to assess how your own breath smells, ask a close friend or relative to confirm your bad-breath questions.

When to see a doctor

If you've been told you have bad breath or are aware that you do, review your oral hygiene habits. Try making lifestyle changes, such as brushing your teeth and tongue after eating, using dental floss, and drinking plenty of water.

If your bad breath persists after making such changes, see your dentist. If your dentist suspects a more serious condition is causing your bad breath, he or she may refer you to a doctor to find the cause of the



odor.

Most bad breath originates in your mouth. The causes of bad breath are numerous. They include:

■Food. The breakdown of food particles in and around your teeth can cause a foul odor. Eating foods containing certain oils is another source of bad breath. Onions and garlic are the best-known examples, but other vegetables and spices also can cause bad breath.

■Dental problems. Poor dental hygiene and periodontal dis-

ease can be a source of bad breath. Dentures that aren't cleaned regularly or don't fit properly can harbor odor-causing bacteria and food particles.

■Dry mouth. Saliva helps cleanse your mouth, removing particles that may cause bad odors. A condition called dry mouth (xerostomia) can contribute to bad breath. Dry mouth naturally occurs during sleep, leading to morning breath.

■Diseases. In about 10 percent of bad breath cases, the bad odors do not come from the mouth (extra-oral halitosis). For example, illnesses, such as some cancers and metabolic disorders, can cause a distinctive breath odor as a result of chemicals they produce. Diabetes and kidney or liver failure can lead to a fishy smell.

■Mouth, nose and throat conditions. Another source of bad breath is the nasal passages. o
 ■Tobacco products.



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Nissan Mexico New Pan American Sponsor

- As part of the sponsorship, Nissan will provide 600 vehicles available for the Organizing Committee to transport athletes, directors and organizers.
- Besides the games, Nissan will sponsor the Mexican Olympic Committee.



Nissan Mexicana, interested in high performance sports in Mexico, has announced its official sponsorship of the XVI Pan-American Games that will be held in Guadalajara, Jalisco, from October 14-30, 2011. In addition, it will also sponsor the Mexican Olympic Committee until the end of 2012.

After 25 years, Mexico will return to the world stage by holding the most important sports event in the continent, the Pan-American games, which summon athletes from all the Americas at an International sports festival preceding the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

This is why Nissan joins to this challenge and reinforce its commitment to Mexico by sponsoring this sports event with competitors from 42 countries displaying an array of passion, discipline, devotion and commitment, all values shared by Nissan.

The agreement states that Nissan will provide 600 units available for the Organizing Committee to transport Pan-American athletes, directors, organizers for the 17 days of competition. Without a doubt, the renowned comfort, performance and quality of Nissan vehicles will guarantee that nothing stops the main performers of these games on their way towards the best results.

In addition, the company will acquire rights over the "Nissan Pan-American Gymnastics Stadium" name from 2010



through 2012, where gymnastics competitions will take place. Such venue has a capacity for 3,500 spectators, who will witness artistic and rhythmic gymnastics, as well as trampoline competitions.

José Muñoz, President and General Manager of Nissan Mexicana, said: "At Nissan, we believe in Mexico and in its athletes, and we share the essence of the Pan-American competitive spirit. That is why, we are pleased to become sponsors of this sports event of key importance to the American Continent. Nissan has been chosen as the official sponsor of this event due to its leadership shown in the Mexican automotive market and also because our models are synonym of performance and trust which guarantee the transport of athletes and their equipment on vehicles like Altima, Maxima, Murano, Rogue, Sentra and Urvan, among others, which shall be available for the Mexican Olympic Committee."

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with or without the ring
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in the sky
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I can hear her happy sigh

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A live trophy for our little island surrounded by sea
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Cause my style in writing is always so smooth
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Lady Luck sat at Tammy Hall's side at Seaport Casino



Saturday, in the early morning hours, Tammy Hall from the U.S. discovered Lady Luck was rooting for her while playing the slot machines at Seaport Casino. After 2 hours of play and spending only \$25, she hit the Straight Flush, winning the neat sum of \$2,724. Needless to say, she was ecstatic with her extra spending money; a boon to the rest of her vacation on Aruba. Photo shows Mrs. Hall receiving her winnings from a Seaport Casino associate.

COMICS



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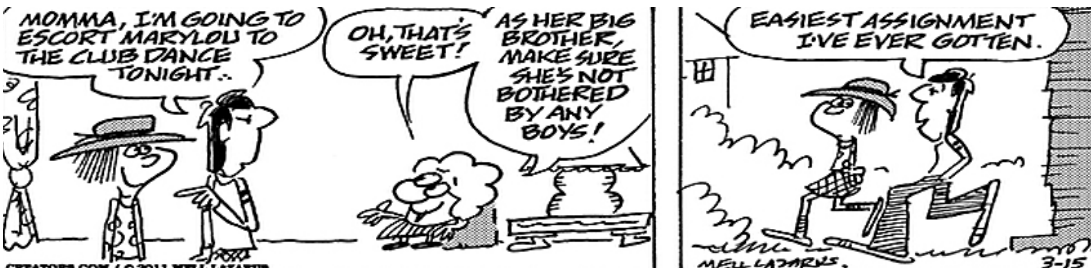
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MOMMA



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ACROSS

1. ___ Mahal
4. Truck-making inits.
7. Large vase
10. Starting with (2 wds.)
12. Simpleton
13. Sentimental mush
14. ___ Cooper (car)
15. Early-morning movie (2

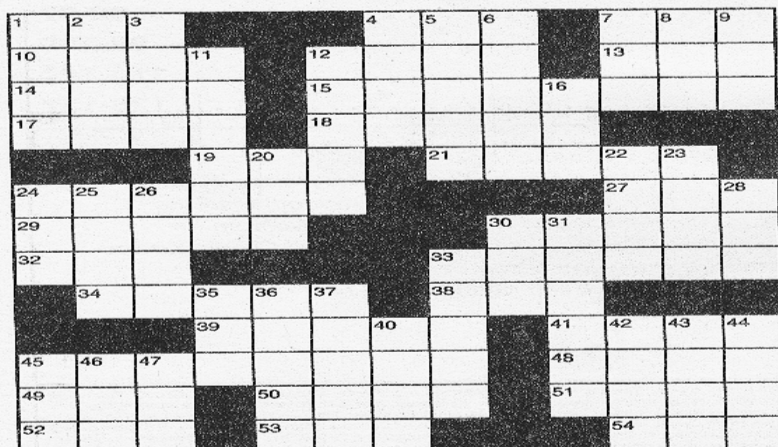
17. Twosome
18. Pseudonym
19. Encountered
21. Impudent
24. Razes
27. Swimming unit
29. Bradley et al.
30. Sunday singers
32. Parisian pal
33. Increase twofold
34. Baldwin et al.
38. Verb ending
39. Become mature
41. Strip of contention

45. Extra pay
48. Test
49. Court divider
50. Author Bagnold
51. Contradict
52. Devoured
53. Became firm
54. Quebec article

DOWN

1. Pack down
2. Laos's continent
3. Singer/songwriter Mitchell ("Both Sides Now")

4. Soccer target
5. Theme
6. Transparent
7. "Yuck!"
8. "Pooh" character
9. Today
11. More solid
12. Lowered notes
16. Wind dir.
20. City railways
22. Untidy person
23. Greet
24. Mauna ___
25. Jane Austen heroine
26. Colorado resort
28. Prior to (prefix)
30. Swindle
31. Embraced
33. Wined and
35. Slip up
36. Quotes
37. Book part
40. Give forth
42. Skating jump
43. Writer Grey
44. Irving and Brennenman
45. Three ___ match (2 wds.)
46. Animal doc
47. Summer (Fr.)



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March 12 - March 19

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Numbers

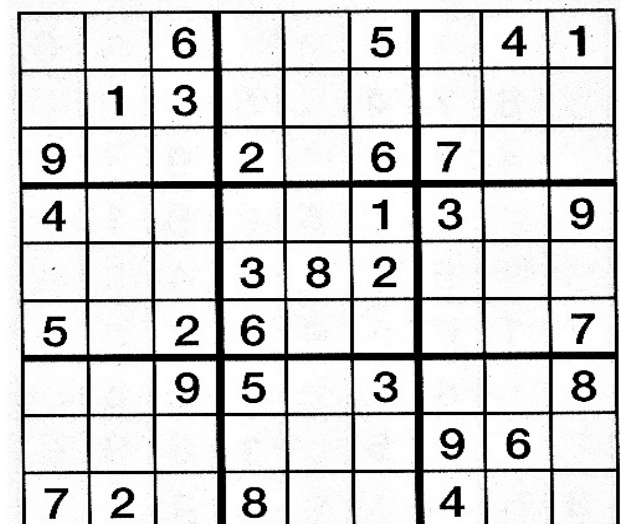
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SOLUTION

9	8	7	6	9	8	1	2	7
2	9	6	7	1	9	8	8	8
8	2	1	8	2	9	6	7	9
7	9	9	2	8	8	2	6	1
6	2	8	1	9	2	8	9	7
8	8	2	9	1	2	7	9	6
9	6	9	8	2	7	8	1	2
1	7	2	9	8	6	9	2	8

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Olympics: Rush starts for London 2012 tickets

LONDON, (AFP) - Tickets for the 2012 London Olympics went on sale this week with organisers promising that the website would not crash under the expected huge demand.

Applicants were urged to approach the start of the ballot for 6.6 million tickets -- coinciding with 500 days to go until the Games begin -- as a marathon not a sprint, with applications possible for the next six weeks.

Allocation of tickets is not on a first-come-first-served basis, meaning every request made until April 26 stands an equal chance of success. London 2012 chairman Sebastian Coe told people there was no need to place their orders immediately.

A London 2012 spokesman said: "It is being sorted. It is an issue with Visa rather than the website or our systems."

Renault apologises to managers wrongly sacked for spying:

PARIS (AFP) - Renault publicly apologised to three top managers it fired for allegedly selling key electric car secrets to China after it emerged the French automaker may have been the victim of fraud.

Boss Carlos Ghosn went on prime time television to apologise "personally and in Renault's name", but said he had turned down an offer by his number two, operations chief Patrick Pelata, to resign over the debacle.

Renault officials quickly sacked the three managers in January, saying publicly they had proof they had been selling secrets on the electric technology which is expected to change the car industry. The French government had branded the affair "economic warfare" and some pointed the finger at China, drawing an angry denial from Beijing.

Ghosn and Pelata said in a statement they would meet with the managers concerned as soon as possible and "make reparations".

'Historic' EU budget pact draws flak:

BRUSSELS (AFP) - Europe thrashed out cross-border laws to punish states that flout budgetary limits in order to avoid a future debt crisis -- but top figures lined up to criticise watered-down measures.

European Union finance ministers proposed six laws for the 17-nation eurozone intended to sharpen defences around their shared currency -- introducing financial penalties for governments that repeatedly breach collective economic targets.

A staggering 2,000-plus amendments lodged by European Parliament lawmakers in a bid to make sanctions more automatic and less susceptible to backroom Brussels politicking may yet see the legislation tightened up between now and a June target-date for adoption.

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US backs Japan's economy despite disaster



WASHINGTON (AFP) - The United States offered a firm endorsement of Japan's economy saying it had "full confidence" its ally would parry the financial aftershocks of its earthquake and tsunami disaster.

Despite fears over the tragedy's impact on the fragile global economic recovery, and sell-offs on global stock markets, the White House said it believed Japan was sufficiently resilient to ride out the crisis.

"These are still early days, but that we remain confident

"We have that confidence and we therefore believe that the resiliency of the Japanese people, the resiliency of the Japanese economy are very important factors in the capacity of Japan to handle this."

Carney spoke up after Japanese stocks saw their biggest fall for two years, plunging 6.18 percent Monday and the central bank pumped a record amount of money into markets shaken by the quake, a tsunami and a nuclear emergency.

US stocks took direction from Tokyo. The Dow Jones

that Japan and, therefore, the world can deal with this crisis and respond and rebuild in a way that is good for Japan and good for the world," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Industrial Average finished 51.24 points lower (0.43 percent) at 11,993.16.

The tech-rich Nasdaq Composite dropped 14.64 points (0.54 percent) to 2,700.97 and the S&P 500-stock index, a broader measure of the markets, shed 7.89 points (0.60 percent) at 1,296.39.

European finance ministers meeting in Brussels for talks focused on plans to defend the euro from future debt crises were also discussing the impact of events in Japan.

The two-day meeting of the world's 20 industrialized and emerging economies will allow ministers to closely examine possible reactions to events in Japan.

Noting that Japan is the world's third biggest economy after the United States and China, Spanish Finance Minister Elena Salgado said the EU "must be attentive." "Japan also has an impact on the (world) economy," she told reporters.

IEA warns high oil prices could hit growth

PARIS, France (AFP) - The International Energy Agency warned of a "marked slowdown" in the global economy unless oil prices fall from current high levels as post-recession demand picks up.

"If prices remain at current levels or rise further, by September 2011, if not before, the global economy may feature a marked slowdown," the IEA said in its monthly oil report.

This effect would be exacerbated by expected fiscal tightening if inflationary pressures become entrenched, said the IEA which advises the industrialised world.

While admitting that estimating the impact is "notoriously difficult," the IEA suggested that a 10 percent increase in the price of oil could cut global growth by between 0.2 and 0.7 percentage points after one year, and possibly by twice as much in the second year.

Turning to the violent unrest in OPEC member Libya, the Paris-based agency said oil production, and certainly ex-

ports, had practically ground to a halt there.

"What is becoming clearer is that the country's oil exports of some 1.3 million barrels per day will remain off the market for a considerable time due to both war inflicted damage and international sanctions," the IEA said.

The IEA report was completed with the full scale of the devastation wreaked by the earthquakes and tsunami in Japan yet to be measured.

With its nuclear capacity wrecked by explosions at reactors in the wake of the natural disasters, the IEA predicted that Japan will need a combination of extra oil and gas to make up the shortfall.

However, the IEA admitted that "there is no way of knowing yet how Japanese oil demand will evolve short-term".

In its report, the IEA estimated that Japanese oil consumption might increase by 200,000 barrels per day if the entire electricity output that usually comes from the country's 11 nuclear power plants

was replaced by oil-fueled production.

The price of Brent crude has risen by around 50 percent in the last six months, first on very strong demand as global economies picked up post-recession and, this year, "on increased regional geopolitical risk in North Africa and the Middle East, embodied by Libya's supply outage," the IEA said.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

C	R	I			W	E	L	L		N	E	V	E		
R	U	N	T		A	L	I	E		M	E	D	I	A	
O	N	C	E		F	I	N	N		U	R	G	E	S	
W	E	H	A	V	E	D	E	A	L	T	V	E	R	Y	
					A	R	E			E	T	E			
		N	O	E	L	S		A	L	A	S		G	E	T
G	O	R	G	E		P	R	E	S		O	R	S	O	
A	N	D	I	T	C	A	M	E	T	O	P	A	S	S	
I	C	E	S		A	G	E	R		N	A	P	E	S	
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T	H	E	L	O	R	D	S	A	I	D	U	N	T	O	
R	A	D	A	R		A	K	I	N		S	O	R	A	
O	L	E	N	T		T	I	N	T		E	D	I	T	
T	E	N	T			A	P	E	S			S	O	S	

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Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to

turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their "home away from home" in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the

rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and

offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on



line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.

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De Niro and Penn back Palestinian film at UN

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) – Sean Penn and Robert De Niro joined stars who appeared at the UN headquarters for the US premiere of a contested movie on the Middle East conflict that Israel tried to get cancelled.

Penn, De Niro, Josh Brolin and Steve Buscemi turned out to support award-winning American-Jewish director Julian Schnabel at the premiere of "Miral," the story of two Palestinian women after the creation of Israel in 1948.

The Israeli mission to the UN had said that showing the movie in the UN General Assembly hall was "clearly a politicized decision" that "shows poor judgment and a lack of even-handedness."

But UN General Assembly president Joseph Deiss of Switzerland turned down the Israeli request to cancel the event. A spokesman said Deiss hoped that showing the film would "contribute" to a settlement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Schnabel, who was awarded the best director at Cannes in 2007 for "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," praised the



Director Julian Schnabel and actor Robert DeNiro attend the premiere of Schnabel's "Miral," at United Nations General Assembly Hall, in New York.

UN decision at the start of the film and called his film a "cry for peace."

The film, with Indian actress Freida Pinto of "Slumdog Millionaire" fame in the lead role, is based on an autobiographical novel by Palestinian journalist Rula Jebreal that traces the Arab-Israeli from a Palestinian perspective.

Like Jebreal, the lead character Miral grows up in an orphanage in East Jerusalem set up by a socialite from a wealthy Palestinian family, who one morning in 1948 came across 55 children who

escaped a village taken over by radical Jewish militants.

Adapted with the author, Schnabel's film traces the lives of the two women from the establishment of the orphanage until the Oslo peace accords of 1993.

Teen cancels Facebook party with 200,000 'guests'

SYDNEY, Australia (AFP) – An Australian schoolgirl had to cancel her 16th birthday party after her Facebook invitation went viral and close to 200,000 people said they would turn up at her house, reports said.

The Sydney girl had wanted her schoolmates to attend, and the post -- which included her address -- said they could bring friends if they let her know, Sydney's Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

"(It's an) open house party as long as it doesn't get out of hand," she wrote, adding that she had not had time to invite everyone individually.

But within 24 hours more than 20,000 people had replied to the public event to say they were attending and by Tuesday almost 200,000 potential partygoers had reportedly accepted the invitation.

The girl's father, who asked not to be named, said his daughter had invited "a few friends" over Facebook but had initially been unaware of the settings required to stop strangers from viewing the information.

"She was just anxious about whether anyone would show up to her birthday," he told the Telegraph.

Police said it appeared the girl's original post had been reposted by an "unknown person" and this had gone viral, as they warned of the dangers of advertising parties on social networking sites.

"The father has given us an undertaking that he will have the Facebook page removed and the party will definitely not be going on," said police Inspector Terry Dalton. "There will be no party at that address."



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South Africa end Irish hopes, reach quarter-finals



Morne Morkel of South Africa is congratulated on the wicket of William Porterfield of Ireland after he was caught by Graeme Smith during the 2011 ICC World Cup Group B match between Ireland and South Africa at Eden Gardens in Kolkata, India.

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) - South Africa became the fifth team to reach the World Cup quarter-finals on Tuesday, comprehensively ending Ireland's hopes and ramping up the survival pressure on illness-hit England.

JP Duminy agonisingly missed a century by just one run as the Proteas recovered from a poor start to make 272 for 7 in Kolkata before Ireland were dismissed for 141 to lose by 131 runs.

"We wanted to qualify. We've got one round robin game left against Bangladesh and hopefully three good games in the knockout phase. We've done the first part of it now," said South Africa captain Graeme Smith.

South Africa were struggling at 117-5 before Duminy and World Cup debutant Colin Ingram (46), replacing the injured AB de Villiers, put on 87 for the sixth wicket at an eerily quiet 65,000-capacity Eden Gardens.

The 26-year-old Duminy, who also added 65 for the seventh wicket with Johan Botha, was on 99 when he skied a mistimed drive into the safe hands of a diving Kevin O'Brien in the final over.

Ireland were dismissed in the 34th over with Gary Wilson top-scoring with 31 and Morne Morkel and Robin Peterson claiming three wickets each.

"We started off pretty well. We got couple of wickets up front. We thought it was important to get wickets to peg them back and I thought we did that pretty much throughout," said Ire-

land captain William Porterfield.

"We were happy enough at half-time with chasing 270. It was not out of our reach but we consistently lost wickets."

South Africa now top Group B and have joined the four qualifiers from Group A in the quarter-finals -- New Zealand, Australia, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Their victory leaves India, West Indies, Bangladesh and England scrambling for the last three spots in their pool.

England's problems piled up on Tuesday when captain Andrew Strauss and off-spinner Graeme Swann missed training with stomach problems and were rated doubtful for the clash against the West Indies in Chennai on Thursday.

Fast bowler Jimmy Anderson also needed treatment on a shoulder injury.

England must beat the West Indies to have a chance of qualifying for the quarter-finals, but even then they will need other results to go their way.

With their last-eight place already assured, Pakistan coach Waqar Younis now wants his team to beat defending champions Australia in their final group match on Saturday.

The 1992 champions eased into the last eight with a comfortable seven-wicket win over Zimbabwe on Monday and now face Australia, who are on an unbeaten 33-match streak in the World Cup.

"They are such a big team, world champs, and haven't lost for ages," said Waqar of

Australia, whose last defeat in the event came at the hands of Pakistan in 1999.

Meanwhile, Canada's John Davison, who once held the record for the fastest World Cup century, will retire from international cricket after his side's final match against Australia.

Davison, born in Canada but brought up in Australia, smashed his famous hundred off just 67 balls against the West Indies at Centurion in 2003.


Australia's Matthew Hayden broke Davison's record at the 2007 World Cup and it was broken again at the ongoing tournament by Ireland's Kevin O'Brien, who reached three figures off just 50 balls against England.

FIFA chief opens football academy in Myanmar

BANGKOK, Thailand (AFP) - The head of world football's governing body FIFA said Myanmar could play a "very active role" in the sport in Asia after he opened a new soccer academy in the country.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter, on his first visit to Myanmar, opened the academy in Mandalay ahead of a meeting this week with premier Thein Sein, who is also president-elect in the new army-dominated parliament.

"Football cannot exist alone without the political and government support and therefore it's absolutely necessary that I'm going to meet your prime minister," Blatter



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SHEFFIELD, United Kingdom- The electronic clock counting down the 500 days to the start of the 2012 London Olympics stopped in an embarrassing glitch less than a day after it was unveiled in a glitzy launch.

Omega said in a statement: "We are obviously very disappointed that the clock has suffered this technical issue, our experts has fully tested ahead of the launch in Trafalgar Square. A spokesman for the London 2012 organisers joked: "Whilst the clock has stopped, and Omega is trying to sort it out, it does not give us additional time to stage the Games."

AFP PHOTO

told a press conference.

"I would say that Myanmar can play a very active role ... let's say at first in ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), then in Asia," he said, referring to when Myanmar's footballers were Asian soccer champions in the 1960s.

Football is Myanmar's most popular sport and now has its own league with about 100 players on monthly salaries ranging from 300,000 kyats (300 dollars) to one million kyats.

Senior General Than Shwe ordered regime cronies and businessmen to be the owners of professional soccer teams in the

league in January 2009, offering incentives such as gem and jade mines, according to a leaked US cable from that year.

A follow-up cable noted that the Myanmar strongman's grandson is himself a footballer for the Delta United team owned by Zaw Zaw, whose companies are subject to US sanctions.

According to one embassy source kept anonymous by the whistleblowing website WikiLeaks, Zaw Zaw and Than Shwe's grandson came up with the idea of a professional soccer league "but had to obtain the senior general's support first".

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April 6 hearing set on lockout

MINNEAPOLIS, Minnesota (AFP) – Battling NFL players and the league will face each other in court on April 6 in a hearing on a players' lawsuit seeking to bar owners from locking them out of work.

US District Judge Susan Richard Nelson scheduled the hearing on Monday.

A group of players, led by superstar quarterbacks Drew Brees, Tom Brady and Peyton Manning, filed their request last week, hours before contract talks broke down, the collective bargaining agreement expired and the NFL said it was locking players out of team facilities.

The players sought an injunction to block an owner-imposed work stoppage, and also filed an anti-trust lawsuit with hundreds of millions of dollars at stake if it goes forward.

The case first went to Judge Richard Kyle, who recused himself for unspecified reasons.

It was reassigned to Judge Patrick Schiltz, who stepped aside because he once represented the NFL in several cases as a private practice attorney.

The case could still be reassigned, even after the injunction request is settled.

The players reportedly want their anti-trust case to

go before US District Judge David Doty, who has ruled on NFL labor issues since the early 1990s and has often found in favor of the players.

If the court decides the latest case is related to prior cases assigned to Doty, it could be reassigned.

Doty presided over a landmark settlement in 1993 that opened the door for true free agency.

Saints quarterback Brees, however, said the players aren't too concerned about whether Doty eventually hears their case.

"To us, that's not an issue," Brees said Monday. "That was something that the owners seemed to be very concerned about and focused on. For us, it's about the facts and it's about the law."

"And we believe those are on our side."

Talks between billionaire owners and millionaire players fell apart last Friday when they could not agree on how to divide \$9 billion in annual revenues.

Sixteen days of negotiations with a federal mediator proved fruitless when the players union decertified, paving the way for the anti-trust lawsuit.

The main stumbling blocks were the amount of money owners wanted off the

top of the annual revenues before dividing up the rest, and the union's demand for full financial disclosure to back up owners' demands.

A top spokesman for the players' association, which is now a "trade association" rather than a union empowered to bargain on behalf of its members, said the two sides weren't close to reaching a deal last week.

"The perception is that we were really, really close. The reality is: We really, really weren't," George Atallah said on a conference call.

With America's most popular spectator sport facing the threat of a truncated season, a senior US lawmaker on Monday called for the NFL's exemption from anti-trust laws in its broadcasting contracts to end.

"At a time when the economy is struggling and the NFL has chosen to lock out its players, it is particularly inappropriate to allow the league to benefit from a special anti-trust exemption," said Representative John Conyers of Michigan, the top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee.

He introduced the Prevent Lockout of Athletes This Year Act, or PLAY Act.

However, committee chairman Lamar Smith of Texas, indicated he wouldn't take up the legislation.

"The House Judiciary Committee will not consider any bill that attempts to interject Congress into the private dispute" between the NFL and the NFL Players Association, Smith said.

The broadcasting exemption allows the NFL to sign TV contracts on behalf of all teams, and the ensuing revenue has helped make the league an economic behemoth.

Djokovic crushes Gulbis, Jankovic out

INDIAN WELLS (AFP) – Two-time major winner Novak Djokovic rolled over Ernests Gulbis 6-0, 6-1 in a third round match at the \$9 million WTA and ATP Masters 1000 event on Tuesday.

The reigning Australian Open champion was rarely tested against the 34th ranked Latvian in the 54-minute match on centre court.

Djokovic fired four aces, including the final two points of the match as he broke Gulbis' serve five times.

Djokovic, who is looking to secure his second Indian Wells title, has been unstoppable so far this year with a 14-0 record.

Djokovic moves on to face either Michael Llodra of France or Serbian countryman Victor Troicki.

Defending woman's champion Jelena Jankovic was added to the growing list of top seed casualties as she lost to Serbian countrywoman Ana Ivanovic 6-4, 6-2 in a fourth round match.

The sixth seeded Jankovic was attempting to become the first woman since Martina Navratilova (1990 and 1991) to defend her title at Indian Wells.

In other early matches Tuesday, Czech Tomas Berdych beat Thomaz Bellucci of Brazil 6-3, 6-2.



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Website hitch as 2012 tickets race

LONDON (AFP) - Tickets for the 2012 London Olympics went on sale Tuesday but some applicants found they were unable to process their orders through the online payment system. London 2012 said instructions on the website and the ticketing guide clearly

states that in order to process an application, Visa cards must expire no earlier than August 2011.

A London 2012 spokesman said: "It is being sorted. It is an issue with Visa rather than the website or our systems."

Barry Bonds' judge OKs access to juror info

SAN FRANCISCO (AFP) - Information about prospective jurors in the upcoming perjury trial of home run king Barry Bonds will be made public, but not the jurors' names, according to a judge.

US District Court Judge Susan Illston on Monday granted the requests of media

outlets about the information on the detailed questionnaires that help the judge and lawyers select the jury.

But Illston said the jurors' names will be kept confidential until the end of the trial because she's concerned the media and public will attempt to interact with jurors if their

names are disclosed.

That kind of communication could cause a mistrial.

The trial is set to begin next Monday and is expected to last at least a fortnight, meaning it would be ongoing when the 2011 Major League Baseball season starts on March 31.

Bonds broke Hank Aaron's revered record for career home runs with his 756th homer in 2007. He finished with 762 homers, but polarized baseball fans who considered him a dope cheat for his links to the BALCO steroid distribution scandal.

The former San Francisco

Giants star is accused of lying to a grand jury in 2003 when he said he never knowingly took performance-enhancing drugs.

Bonds has pleaded not guilty to four counts of perjury and a charge of obstructing justice.



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